



MORE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IS COMING SOON

The long awaited Hart District Council's Core Strategy Transport Assessment, undertaken by Surrey County Council, has now been received and it confirms that the currently planned development will bring further congestion to the roads in Hart, as feared by local residents.

The report looks at the likely traffic patterns and, by 2026, it forecasts that in the Hart Area vehicle kilometres will rise by 15%, vehicle hours will increase by approximately 20%, and vehicle speeds will reduce by some 5% as a direct result of the planned development. In other words, there will be more cars spending more time going slower in the congestion and life will be more stressful and less healthy.

The following local roads will be at or close to their capacities by 2026:

- A30 (in several locations between Hartley Wintney and Blackwater)
- A3013 Fleet Road, B3010 Kings Road and B3013 Beacon Hill Road (Fleet)
- A287 Farnham Road (Crandall)
- B3272 Hawley Road (Blackwater / Hawley)
- M3 junction 5 (circulatory carriageway between A287 north and B3349 at the roundabout junction)
- B3272 Reading Road and B3015 Swan Lane (Yateley / Frogmore)
- Well Lane and Dora's Green Lane (situated at the district boundary)

The following junctions will be the most badly impacted:

- The junction of A3013 Fleet Road with A323 Reading Road and Crookham Road;

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- The junction of A323 Fleet Road with Aldershot Road; and
- The junction of B3349 New Odiham Road with Lees Hill.

The report suggests that some improvements to local roads might be needed and it also recommends that feasibility work is done to look at congestion at junctions 4a and 5 of the M3. Overall, it does little to look at the local problems already faced by residents in the Fleet area.

Following the third FACE-IT (Fleet and Crookham Environment is Threatened) public meeting on 22 May, local residents were asked to highlight any problem areas they currently experienced on local roads. A FACE-IT spokesman reported that many attendees submitted reports regarding unfortunate experiences on locally congested roads. Particular problem areas included:

- Ancells Farm to Kings Road a 25 minute journey at peak times
- Long queues at the junction of Redfields Lane and A287 for both left and right turning traffic, where another 25 minute wait is not uncommon.
- The same problem occurs at the Junction of the A287 with Crondall Road where 20 minute queues are often endured.



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- The school run to Heatherside and Courtmoor schools are fraught with problems around the Glen Road Junction which already has a 20mph limit
- Reading Road South, Aldershot Road and Connaught Road junction is severely congested at peak times and most of the day with traffic attempting to access Fleet Town Centre.
- Fleet station is a major problem every time a train arrives, as cars arrive to collect commuters and cars leave the station.
- Many commuters park their cars all day in private residential roads to avoid paying excessive parking tariffs at Fleet Station car park. These roads include Queen Mary Close, Knoll Road and Cranford Court.
- In Crookham Village the junctions of Crookham Road, Hitches Lane and Crondall Road are already problem areas following the most recent developments.
- Another regular choke point is the cross roads at the Oatsheaf Public House.

None of these ‘hot spots’ on local roads are addressed in the Surrey County Council report but it does indicate that several of the major routes in and out of Fleet will soon be at capacity. ‘We are very concerned that the only improvement measures that may be considered as a result of the report will be a few roundabouts to allow traffic on and off new housing estates and nothing will be done to improve the local road network’, the FACE-IT spokesman said. ‘With the major access roads operating at capacity, traffic will move onto minor roads, as we have recently seen. These roads are not suitable for the traffic volumes they are already experiencing and accidents and injuries will inevitably increase, especially at peak periods and when children are walking to and from school.’

Ends

For further information contact publicity@faceit-group.org

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